

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 293076 TOSEC 120048

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: AP ARTICLE - SCHAUFLE NAMED AS AMBASSADOR
TO POLAND - DATELINED 12/7 BRUSSELS

NO. 7

BEGIN TEXT: THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED TO
WITHDRAW THE CONTROVERSIAL NOMINATION OF WILLIAM E.
SCHAUFLE AS AMBASSADOR TO GREECE AND SEND THE CAREER
DIPLOMAT TO POLAND INSTEAD, U.S. OFFICIALS SAID TODAY.

SCHAUFLE, A 30-YEAR VETERAN, HAS BEEN COOLING HIS HEELS
AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT EVER SINCE HE TESTIFIED TO THE
SENATE LAST JULY THAT IT WAS "UNUSUAL" THAT GREECE OWNED
ISLANDS CLOSE TO TURKEY.

THE REMARK BREWED A TEMPEST IN GREECE, WHERE IT WAS VIEWED
BY SOME NATIONALISTS AS QUESTIONING GREEK CONTROL OVER
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THE ISLANDS. HIS ASSIGNMENT TO ATHENS WAS DELAYED.

TO REPLACE SCHAUFLE, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS SELECTED
ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY, NIW SERVING AS AMBASSADOR TO THE
NETHERLANDS. HE IS A FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS AND IS KNOWN BEST AS PRESS
SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

IN HIS TESTIMONY, SCHAUFELER SAID, "THE AEGEAN, ESSENTIALLY, IS A BILATERAL DISPUTE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, WHICH IN PART IS DUE TO UNUSUAL, I MUST ADMIT, ARRANGEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE ABOUT GEOGRAPHY IN THE PAST IN WHICH YOU HAVE GREECE OWNING TERRITORY VERY CLOSE TO THE TURKISH COAST AS A RESULT OF PAST INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS."

SCHAUFELER, 53, WAS DECLARED UNACCEPTABLE TO GREECE BY ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, CHAIRMAN OF THE GREEK SOCIALIST PARTY, WHO SAID IT WAS NOW CLEAR THAT "TURKISH EXPANSIONISM IS NOT ONLY INSTIGATED BUT DIRECTLY GUIDED BY THE UNITED STATES."

THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT PARTY SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT SCHAUFELER, A FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, WAS "AN OPEN ADVOCATE OF TURKISH VIEWS."

MCCLOSKEY, STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN UNDER BOTH DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION, IS A FORMER NEWSPAPERMAN WHO HAS ALSO SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS. TURKISH OCCUPATION OF MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE ISLAND A SHORT-LIVED GREEK-LED COUP IN 1974 IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL IRRITANTS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY.

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SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE PLANS TO MEET WITH GREEK AND TURKISH MINISTERS WHILE ATTENDING NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION MEETINGS HERE. HE IS SEEKING A COMPROMISE THAT SO FAR HAS ELUDED THE UNITED STATES AND DELAYED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON DEFENSE AGREEMENTS WITH THE TWO NATO ALLIES. END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

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